Weobley Parish Church

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

Herefordshire

TWELVE MILES NORTH-WEST OF HEREFORD

Architecture

NORMAN – DECORATED – PERPENDICULAR

with Modern Restoration

Photograph by Edwin John Photography, Hereford, 69782

DOWN THE CENTURIES

WIBBA, a Mercian prince. set up Wibba's Ley (Weobley) as an outpost against the Welsh at the end of the 6th century.

A resident Priest at " Wibelai " was noted in Domesday Book, 1086.

The first Norman Church (no remains) was built some time after 1085 by Hugh de Lacy, who also founded Llanthony Priory.

Through the centuries the Church was enlarged and enriched. It was rededicated by Bishop Orleton in 1325, when its main features were much as they are today.

The Prior and monks of Llanthony were patrons of Weobley until the Reformation.

12th century.	Second Norman Church. Remains in south aisle wall, south doorway, and stonework behind pulpit.
13th century.	Two coffin lids at West end of south aisle; floriated crosses.
14th century.	Tower ; south porch ; font ; churchyard cross.
15th century.	West part of north aisle.
16th century.	Roof, except over north aisle.
17th century.	Monument to Col. Birch. Three bells.
18th century.	Altar. South door.
19th century.	Restoration, 1865.
20th century.	Chancel Screen, gift of Sir Joseph Verdin. Organ.

Since 1954, some £14,000 have been spent on repairs and restoration of the fabric of the Church. A very large sum, not easily assessable in these days of inflation, is needed to continue this maintenance work and keep the organ in good order.

FEATURES OF THE CHURCH

EXTERIOR

Tower and Spire : 14th century.

Embattled western tower with pinnacles, perhaps a tower of refuge, formerly separate from the Church, octagonal spire. Six bells and clock.

INTERIOR

Entrance

South porch : 14th century ; door with initials and date 1712 ; plain ring-handle.

South Aisle

East end: former Chapel of St. Nicholas, now Garnstone pew.

Font : octagonal with window-tracery.

Nave

Paintings : traces on columns, also scroll-work and inscriptions.

Ball Flower ornamentation.

North Aisle

Chapel of Our Lady where organ now stands.

Mediaeval glass : coloured bordering in east window ; Six Seraphim in middle window.

Screen : part of base of old Chancel Screen, with three large panels.

Pulpit : portions of stone pulpit, loose at west end.

Chancel

Altar : turned legs, moulded rails, date 1707 on brackets.

Coffin lids incorporated in Monuments.

Niche on South side of chancel arch for bust of a king.

Piscina : tre-foiled head.

FEATURES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

(1) MONUMENT to Col. Birch, M.P., died 1691 ; in Sanctuary, a white marble statue in armour, pointing with baton, against a background of grey marble, flanked wtth Corinthian columns, surmounted with coat-of-arms.

Col. Birch, a prominent Parliamentarian in the Civil War, became Governor of Hereford Castle, and owner of ihe Bishop's Palace.

(2) ALTAR TOMB. Ascribed to Sir Walter Devereux, 1430. North side of chancel. Alabaster effigy with shields in quatre foils ; feet on lion ; both arms missing.

(3) ALTAR TOMB. Ascribed to Sir John and Lady Marbury, 1450. South side of chancel. Alabaster effigies in recess. Sir John in armour ; wife with cloak, collar and head-dress.

(4) COFFIN LID. 13th century, Hugo Bissop : East wall of south aisle, tapering slab with floriated cross, flanked by bishop's mitre and crozier, in punning reference to Bissop's name, in Garnstone pew, formerly the chapel of St. Nicholas.

(5) STONE TABLE. North aisle ; formerly used for Charity Bread.

(6) CHURCHYARD CROSS. South of the Chancel, 14th century. Flight of steps, socket stone, shaft, octagonal base. Paschal niche for reception of Pyx in Palm Sunday procession.

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